

Canada: RAWS Information Exchange

Trip report of Charles Kazimir for the time period of 08/05/04 to 08/09/04 to Victoria, Canada.

I am an electronic technician at the Remote Sensing Fire Weather Support Unit (RSFWSU) Depot facility where Meteorological and Fire Weather monitoring stations and equipment are repaired and calibrated. Forest Technology Systems (FTS) is one of the manufacturers of equipment maintained at the Depot. FTS regularly attends the Satellite Telemetry Interagency Working Group (STIWG) meetings as do I. FTS is geographically close to the location of the last STIWG meeting in Seattle, WA. so FTS invited Herb Arnold (RSFWSU Leader) and I to visit their new facilities in Victoria, BC.

I was to visit FTS to discuss new equipment developments, problem areas, and work on our business relationship. During my visit I toured their facilities and saw first hand how they are set up, and how they process the building and calibration of the weather monitoring equipment they manufacture. FTS assured me they are committed to Relative Humidity / Air Temperature sensor as the next new major project on their schedule. It will be about a two year project benefiting FTS, RSFWSU, and the Fire Weather community. The existing FTS RH/AT sensor barely meets NFDRS standards and has a low volume of throughput during the calibration process.

The most exciting exchange of information was in regard to a new GOES transmitter FTS built the G5. We spent most of the day going over the technical capabilities and design concepts of this GOES transmitter.

FTS will begin deploying the G5 to the field in a matter of days. FTS has offered to visit RSFWSU at NIFC sometime in October to provide hands on and first hand G5 training to RSFWSU Depot technicians.

Charles Kazimir